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Admiralty-Office, April 6.

A Diſpatch, of which the following is a Copy, was this Evening received from Vice-Admiral Hotham, Commander of His Majeſty's Ships and Veſſels in the Mediterranean.

Britannia, at Sea, March 16, 1795.

SIR,

YOU will be pleaſed to inform their Lordſhips, that on the 8th Inſtant, being then in Leghorn Road, I received an Expreſs from Genoa, that the French Fleet, conſiſting of Fifteen Sail of the Line and Three Frigates, were ſeen Two Days before off the Iſle of Marguerite, which Intelligence correſponding with a Signal made from the Mozelle, then in the Offing, for a Fleet in the North-Weſt Quarter, I immediately cauſed the Squadron to be unmoored, and at Day-Break the following Morning we put to Sea with a ſtrong Breeze from the Eaſt-North-Eaſt.

The Mozelle previouſly returned to me, with the Information, that the Fleet ſhe had ſeen were ſteering to the Southward, and ſuppoſed to be the Enemy; in conſequence of which I ſhaped my Courſe for Corſica, leſt their Deſtination ſhould be againſt that Iſland, and diſpatched the Tarleton Brig to St. Fiorenzo, with Orders for the Berwick to join me with all poſſible Expedition off Cape Corſe; but, in the Courſe of the Night, ſhe returned to me with the unwelcome Intelligence of that Ship's having been captured Two Days before by the Enemy's Fleet.

To treſpaſs as little as poſſible upon their Lordſhips Time, I ſhall not enter into a Detail of our Proceedings until the Two Squadrons got Sight of each other, and the Proſpect opened of forcing the Enemy to Action, every Movement which was made being directed to that Object, and that alone.

Although the French Ships were ſeen by our advanced Frigates daily, yet the Two Squadrons did not get Sight of each other until the 12th, when that of the Enemy was diſcovered to Windward.

Obſerving them on the Morning following ſtill in that Direction, without any apparent Intention of coming down, the Signal was made for a general Chace, in the Courſe of which, the Weather being ſqually, and blowing very freſh, we diſcovered one of their Line of Battle Ships to be without her Topmaſts, which afforded to Captain Freemantle, of the Inconſtant Frigate, (who was then far advanced on the Chace) an Opportunity of ſhewing a good Proof of Britiſh Enterprize, by his attacking, raking, and harraſſing her until the coming up of the Agamemnon, when he was moſt ably ſeconded by Captain Nelſon, who did her ſo much Damage as to diſable her from putting herſelf again to rights; but they were at this Time ſo far detached from our own Fleet, that they were obliged to quit her, as other Ships of the Enemy were coming up to her Aſſiſtance, by one of which ſhe was ſoon afterwards taken in tow.

Finding that our heavy Ships did not gain on the Enemy during the Chace, I made the Signal for the Squadron to form upon the Larboard Line of Bearing, in which Order we continued for the Night.

At Day-Light the next Morning (the 14th) being about Six or Seven Leagues to the South-Weſt of Genoa,

[Price Four-pence Halfpenny.]

Genoa, we obſerved the Enemy's diſabled Ship, with the one that had her in tow, to be ſo far to Leeward, and ſeparated from their own Squadron, as to afford a probable Chance of our cutting them off. The Opportunity was not loſt; all Sail was made to effect that Purpoſe, which reduced the Enemy to the Alternative of abandoning thoſe Ships, or coming to Battle.

Although the latter did not appear to be their Choice, they yet came down (on the contrary Tack to which we were) with the View of ſupporting them; but the Captain and Bedford, whoſe Signals were made to attack the Enemy's diſabled Ship and her Companion, were ſo far advanced, and ſo cloſely ſupported by the other Ships of our Van, as to cut them off effectually from any Aſſiſtance that could be given them; the Conflict ended in the Enemy's abandoning them, and firing upon our Line as they paſſed with a light Air of Wind.

The Two Ships that fell prove1 to be the Ca-ira (formerly the Couronne,) of 80 Guns, and the Cenſeur of 74.

Our Van Ships ſuffered ſo much by this Attack, particularly the Illuſtrious and Courageux (having each loſt their Main and Mizen Maſts) that it became impoſſible for any Thing further to be effected.

I have, however, good Reaſon to hope, from the Enemy's ſteering to the Weſtward, after having paſſed our Fleet, that, whatever might have been their Deſign, their Intentions are for the preſent fruſtrated.

The French Fleet were loaded with Troops; the Ca-ira having Thirteen Hundred Men on Board, and the Cenſeur One Thouſand, of whom, by their obſtinate Defence, they loſt in Killed and Wounded between Three and Four Hundred Men.

The Efforts of our Squadron to ſecond my Wiſhes for an immediate and effectual Attack upon the Enemy, were ſo ſpirited and unanimous, that I feel peculiar Satisfaction in offering to their Lordſhips my cordial Commendation of all Ranks collectively. It is difficult to ſpecify particular Deſert, where Emulation was common to all, and Zeal for His Majeſty's Service the general Deſcription of the Fleet.

It is, however, an Act of Juſtice to expreſs the Senſe I entertain of the Services of Captain Holloway, of the Britannia: During a long Friendſhip with that Officer I have had repeated Proofs of his perſonal and profeſſional Talents; and on this recent Demand for Experience and Information, his Zeal afforded me the moſt beneficial and ſatisfactory Aſſiſtance.

Herewith I tranſmit a Liſt of the Killed and Wounded on Board the different Ships of the Squadron, and have to lament the Loſs of Captain Littlejohn, of the Berwick (who, I underſtand, from ſome of her Men that were retaken in the Ca-ira) was unfortunately killed the Morning of the Ship's being captured; by which Misfortune His Majeſty has loſt a moſt valuable and experienced Officer, and I have only to add that he has left a Widow and Four ſmall Children.

I am, SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

W. HOTHAM.

P. S. Encloſed are Liſts of the Ships that compoſed the Two Squadrons on the 14th Inſtant.

I am now on the Way with the Prizes to St. Fiorenzo, but doubt much whether it will be poſſible to get them in, as they are diſmaſted, greatly ſhattered, and very leaky, particularly the Ca-ira.

Return of the Officers and Men killed and wounded on Board the different Ships of the Squadron under Vice-Admiral Hotham's Command, in an Action with the French Fleet off Genoa, the 14th of March, 1795.

Britannia, Captain Holloway.—1 Seaman killed, 18 ditto wounded.

Princeſs Royal, Captain Purvis.—3 Seamen killed, 7 ditto wounded, 1 Marine or Soldier wounded.

St. George, Captain Foley.—Third Lieutenant Rt. Honeyman wounded, 4 Seamen killed, 12 ditto wounded.

Windſor Caſtle, Captain Gore.—Firſt Lieutenant Thomas Hawker wounded, 5 Seamen killed, 28 ditto wounded, 1 Marine or Soldier killed, 2 ditto wounded.

Captain, Captain Reeve.—Mr. William Hunter (Maſter) and Firſt Lieutenant Wilſon Rathbone, wounded, 3 Seamen killed, 17 ditto wounded.

Fortitude, Captain Young.—1 Seaman killed, 4 ditto wounded.

Illuſtrious, Captain Frederick.—Mr. Samuel Moore (Midſhipman) wounded, 15 Seamen killed, 68 ditto wounded, 5 Marines or Soldiers killed, 1 ditto wounded.

Egmont, Captain Sutton.—7 Seamen killed, 21 ditto wounded.

Terrible, Captain Campbell.—6 Seamen wounded.

Courageux, Captain Montgomery.—Mr. William Coleman (Midſhipman) killed, Mr. John Blackburn (Maſter) wounded, 8 Seamen killed, 21 ditto wounded, 6 Marines or Soldiers killed, 11 ditto wounded.

Bedford, Captain Gould.—Firſt Lieutenant Miles wounded, 6 Seamen killed, 14 ditto wounded, 1 Marine or Soldier killed, 3 ditto wounded.

Agamemnon, Captain Nelſon.—Mr. John Wilſon (Maſter) and 12 Seamen wounded.

Diadem, Captain Tyler.—3 Seamen killed, 7 ditto wounded.

Inconſtant, Captain Freemantle.—3 Seamen killed, 14 ditto wounded.

Tancredi, Le Chevalier Caraccioli.—1 Seaman killed, 5 ditto wounded.

Total.—75 killed, 280 wounded.

W. HOTHAM.

ORDER of BATTLE, the 14th of March, 1795.

Frigates, &c.		No.	Ships.	Commanders.	Guns.	Men.	Division.
Lowestoffe, repeating Frigate. Tarleton, Palade, Poulette and Minerva.	Van Squadron, under the Commander in the 2d Post.	1.	Captain,	Capt. Reeve,	74	590	
		2.	Bedford,	Capt. Gould,	74	590	
		3.	Tancredi,	Capt. Le Chevalier Caraccioli,	74	600	Starboard or Weather Division.
		4.	Princess Royal,	Capt. Purvis,	90	760	
		5.	Agamemnon,	Capt. Nelson,	64	491	Vice-Admiral Goodall.
Inconstant, Meleager, to repeat Signals.	Centre Squadron, under the Commander in Chief.	6.	Illustrious,	Capt. Frederick,	74	590	
		7.	Courageux,	Capt. Montgomery,	74	640	
		8.	Britannia,	Capt. Holloway,	100	859	Vice-Admiral Hotham.
		9.	Egmont,	Capt. Sutton,	74	590	
		10.	Windsor Castle,	Capt. Gore,	90	755	Rear-Admiral Linzee.
Romulus, repeating Frigate. Fox Cutter.	Rear Squadron, under the Commander in the 3d Post.	11.	Diadem,	Capt. Tyler,	64	491	Larboard or Lee Division.
		12.	St. George,	Capt. Foley,	90	760	
		13.	Terrible,	Capt Campbell,	74	590	Vice-Admiral Sir H. Parker.
		14.	Fortitude,	Capt. Young,	74	590	

W. HOTHAM.

Names of the Ships which composed the French Fleet on the 14th Day of March, 1795.

NAMES.	Guns.	Complement of Men.	On Board at the Time of Action.
Le Sans Culotte,	120	1200	2000
Le Victoire, (late Languedoc)	80	950	1300
Le Tonnant,	80	950	1300
Le Guerrier,	74	730	1000
Le Conquerant,	74	730	1000
Le Mereure,	74	730	1000
Le Barras,	74	730	1000
Le Genereaux,	74	730	1000
Le Heureux,	74	730	1000
Le Dequesne,	74	730	1000
Le Timoleon, (late Commerce de Bourdeaux)	74	730	1000
Le Ca-ira, (taken)	80	950	1300
Le Censeur, (taken)	74	930	1000
L'Alcide,	74	930	1000
Le Souverain,	74	930	1000
La Vestal,	32	250	250
La Minerve,	40	300	300
La Thamise,	40	300	300
L'Alceste,	32	250	250
Scout,	18	120	120
La Hazard,	20	120	120

W. HOTHAM.

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